at about three rows of scales behind the eye, its upper branch at 11 scales, and the lower branch at about 8 scales from the lower eye; the lateral line extends over 120 scales from the upper branch to the tail; no pectoral fins; body scales with 8 to 10 spines; width of the interorbital space less than the diameter of the eye; mouth very small, opening to below the centre of the orbit. The greatest height is about the centre of the body, and is $2\frac{1}{5}$ in the total length, without caudal; the head is five times in the same, without caudal, and $2\frac{1}{6}$ times in the height. The breadth of the tail at the base is $1\frac{1}{2}$ times in its length. Colour light brown, covered with irregular wavy narrow transverse bands of a dark tint, 35 or more in number, with irregular interspaces, some of the lines confluent, others in regular waves. Length of specimen 3 inches, without caudal; tail 0·6 inch.

Hab. Freshwater, Hunter River.

This specimen was presented to the Museum by His Honor Judge Windeyer, in 1875. Type in the Australian Museum.

Description of the Eggs of Five Species of Fijian Birds.

By E. P. Ramsay, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S.

My friend, Mr. A. Boyd, has forwarded me some rare eggs of Fijian birds, which I believe have not hitherto been described.

1. Vitia ruficapalla, *Ramsay*.

(Drymochæra badiceps, *Finsch*.)

The egg of this interesting species is of a rich chocolate red, uniform in tint, and a little brighter than those of *Chthonicola sagittata*, which they resemble. Length, 0·75 in.; breadth, 0·55 in. The form is of a long oval. The nest is a dome-shaped structure of grasses, &c., not unlike that of some of the *Sericornis*, of the section to which *S. pontalis* belongs. The eggs are two in number.

2. Procellaria albogularis, *Finsch.*

I think if the adults of *Procellaria Cookii* be compared with the *P. albogularis* of Dr. Finsch, they will be found to be identical. Mr. A. Boyd, of Waidau, Fiji, informs me "that this species breeds during the months of May and June, in the thick forests in high mountain tops, digging a hole in the earth in a slanting direction, about two feet in length, and lay one, but sometimes two eggs at the end of the burrow, without making any other preparation for their reception. I found them common on *Muani vatu*, the highest peak in the interior of Viti-levu, and they are also found breeding on Ovalau. The males assist in incubating. Out of two dozen taken from their holes, the majority were of that sex (♂). Their note is a low mournful cry." The eggs are ovate, rather pointed, of a dull white, with a few yellowish brown stains, probably from the earth on which they were laid. Average length, 1·9; breadth, 1·4.

3. Artamus mentalis.

Eggs light cream color, almost white, with dots and spots of reddish brown, and larger irregular obsolete markings of a pale lilac, sometimes forming a zone on the thicker end. Length, 1 in.; breadth, 0·7.

4. Merula vitiensis, *Layard.*

(*Toula* of the natives.)

Eggs pale green, with reddish brown spots and freckles all over the surface, crowded on the thicker end. Form oval, the thin end rounded. Length 1·1 x 0·83 in.

5. Merula ruficeps, *Ramsay.*

(M. bicolor, *Layard, MSS.*)

Eggs very light green, with freckles of reddish brown, sprinkled sparingly over the surface, crowded into a blotch on the thick

end; the thinner end pointed. Length, 1·15 in by 0·8 in. The nest is similar to that of others of the genus,—a round cup-shaped structure of sticks, lined with finer material and grass, &c.

(*To be continued.*)

Note upon the Bark of a reputed Ecbolic Plant from New Caledonia.

By Dr. Thomas Dixon, Sydney.

Some two months ago I received from this Society about ($2\frac{1}{2}$) two and a half ounces of bark, sent by Mr. Layard, of New Caledonia; it was in pieces apparently from an undershrub—inside it was fibrous and brown, outside it had a corky layer $\frac{1}{20}$ inch thick, with a grey-brown surface more or less tuberculated. On tasting it had a slightly astringent barky flavor only. Perchloride of iron gave a black infusion, caustic potash solution darkened it, shewing presence of tannic acid. Having so little to work with I made a cold infusion of some, then spirituous etherial extract from the rest, and finally I made a decoction of the already used bark. The result was three very light brown clear fluids, very slightly astringent in the case of the infusions. I added all three together, carefully dried at a temperature of 120° Ft., and made thus an extract weighing some nine grains, which was chiefly fine powder from the bark. I gave a cat (in kitten) three grains as a pill,—no effect of any kind visible, even on the pupil of the eye. I gave her a week later the remaining six grains in milk, which she devoured greedily, though it made the milk quite brown,—no effect resulted. A kitten three months old took a little left in the milk dish, with no visible effect. The cat littered four mature kittens two days after.

Now, be it remembered that here was six grains of extract from $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz. of bark given to an animal 6 lbs. weight, which should be a powerful dose if the medicine had any potency of con-